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## ***GOVERNOR NOMINATES ARIZONANS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE National Governors Association 2007 Awards***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has nominated three Arizona individuals and one organization to be recognized for their distinguished service to state government. Winners will be selected over the next few weeks, and the awards presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Governors Association in Traverse City, Michigan in July.

- ***Childsplay Theater*** has been nominated in the category of Artistic Production. Childsplay, founded in 1977, is one of Arizona's leading arts-in-education providers. The group's performances reach more than 160,000 students in 250 schools every year. Childsplay also offers an array of in-classroom, multi-week residency programs, as well as theater training for serious acting students and a variety of drama classes for children of all ages and interest levels.
- ***Carol DuVal Whiteman*** has been nominated for excellence in and contribution to the Arts. Whiteman is an arts philanthropist and activist, who most recently organized the effort to rescue Ballet Arizona from financial failure. Whiteman has been a benefactor the full range of arts in our state including The Phoenix Museum of Art, the Desert Botanical Garden and the Heard Museum. Whiteman is a founder of the Arizona Civic Theater (now the Arizona Theater Company) and the Tucson Council of the Arts.
- ***Ed Zito*** has been nominated in the Private Citizen category. Zito, Executive Vice President of Alliance Bank, is also known as a leader in the high-technology community and chaired the Governor's Council on Innovation and Technology. He has been critical to the implementation of the Governor's innovation agenda in Arizona and has contributed much time and energy to a variety of charitable causes. Zito has devoted his career to building a diverse, strong and safe Arizona.
- ***Tracy Wareing*** has been nominated in the State Official category. Wareing is the Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Services and has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to children, adults and families in our state. She has been a leader in the successful implementation of the reform plan for Child Protective Services, and a result of her work, more children receive services in their own homes, more

children are cared for through permanent guardianship and adoption, and there has been a significant decrease in the number of children in group homes and shelters.

Each year, NGA presents three awards for state officials, three for private citizens and two for distinguished service to the arts. Governors of all states may submit nominees.

Among last year's winners was Dora Schriro, Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, visit [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).